

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/629,493

Examiner

Kimberly T. Wood

Applicant(s)

STILLMAN, RALPH P.

Art Unit

3632

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/5/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 26,30-33,35,38,39,41,42,45-47,60-62,65,71,73 and 74.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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This is an office action for serial number 10/629,493, entitled Holder For Supporting A Cleaning Utensil, filed on July 29, 2003.

***Examiner's Amendment***

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kateherine M. DeVries Smith on May 16, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

**Claim 26, line 12, --**, wherein the retaining arrangement , comprises a continuous ridge parallel with and along at least a portion of the front edge of the support platform, wherein the ridge includes a substantially flat surface for engaging a portion of a cleaning utensil, wherein the ridge extends along about half or more of a distance of the front edge of the support platform;-- has been inserted after "head portion".

**Claim 38, line 10, "continuous"** has been inserted after "comprises".

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,line 13, ",wherein the ridge extends along about half or more of a distance of the front edge of the support platform" has been inserted after "utensil".

**Claim 60, line 12, --**, wherein the retaining arrangement comprises a continuous ridge parallel with and along at least a portion of the front edge of the support platform, wherein the ridge includes a substantially flat surface for engaging a portion of a cleaning utensil, wherein the ridge extends along about half or more of a distance of the front edge of the support platform;-- has been inserted after "head portion".

**Claims 66-70 have been canceled.**

**Claim 71, line 11, --**, wherein the retaining arrangement comprises a continuous ridge parallel with and along at least a portion of the front edge of the support platform, wherein the ridge includes a substantially flat surface for engaging a portion of a cleaning utensil, wherein the ridge extends along about half or more of a distance of the front edge of the support platform -- has been inserted after "head portion".

**Reasons for Allowance**

Claims 26, 30-33, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42, 45-47, 60-62, 65, 71, 73, and 74 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not disclose in regards to claims

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30-32, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42, 45-47, 60-62, 65, 71, and 73 the retaining arrangement comprises a continuous ridge parallel with and along at least a portion of the front edge of the support platform, wherein the ridge includes a substantially flat surface for engaging a portion of a cleaning utensil, wherein the ridge extends along about half or more of a distance of the front edge of the support platform. The prior art does not disclose in regards to claims 33 and 74 a system comprising a cleaning utensil in combination with holder having a support platform including a retaining arrangement to constrain the head of the cleaning utensil with the holder so that the reservoir of the utensil is situated downwardly from the head portion, wherein the arrangement comprises one or more grooves defined in the support platform.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### **Conclusion**

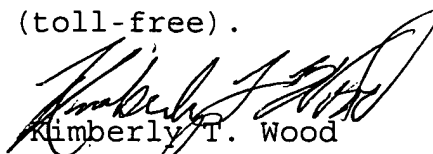
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly

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T. Wood whose telephone number is 571-272-6826. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun can be reached on 571-272-6815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Kimberly T. Wood  
Primary Examiner  
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June 22, 2005